

NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**



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Media Contact: Jeff Harris, 317/232-3396
Diane Wieland, 317/232-6699

Joseph E. Kernan, Governor
Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

Kernan Awards Training Grant to Fort Wayne Company

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Gov. Joe Kernan today announced that Fort Wayne's Midwest Tool and Die Co. has received a \$31,500 Incumbent Worker Training fund grant from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development to upgrade the skills of 9 employees.

Founded in 1974, Midwest Tool and Die is a small, family-owned manufacturer of molds, dies, prototypes, and a quality tooling including high-speed progressive terminal stamping dies. Working through RJG Inc. and the Anthis Career Center, the company will contribute \$76,738 toward the effort.

"We are excited to work with Midwest Tool and Die to create this opportunity to train employees," said Kernan. "By taking this action the company is not only investing in itself, it is investing in its workforce. This training will give workers life-long, accredited skills that can never be taken away."

Using the funding, eight journey-level workers will be trained in high-tech molding, four toolmakers will continue on in training and become Master Molders and one employee will receive apprenticeship training in tool making.

"Midwest Tool & Die is investing in skills that will help our company to evolve, compete and grow," said Craig Swanson, systems vice president for Midwest Tool and Die Co. "Through training, the company will become more diverse, attract new business, and retain our workforce."

All Indiana businesses are eligible to apply for Incumbent Worker Training grants. The grants are designed to create a world-class workforce in Indiana, through continuous improvement to the skill levels of Hoosier workers.

Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, works with the state's 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this or other DWD programs, contact Jeff Harris at 317/232-3396 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

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